

1901 CENSUS: RG13/1080. folio 18. page 7.
Address: The Vicarage, Micheldever, Southampton.

George Alex JOHNSTONE. Head. M. 32. Clergyman (Ch of England). Liverpool, Lancs.

Mabel Gertrude JOHNSTONE. Wife. M. 34. Bradford, Yorks.

Barbara Constance JOHNSTONE. Dau. 1. Micheldever, Hants.

Elizabeth Victoria BEEL. Serv. S. 24. Cook Domestic. Netley Hospital, Hants.

Florence Isabella FLINN. Serv. S. 31. Nurse Domestic. East Indies.

Isabella PAVEY. Serv. S. 22. House Parlourmaid Domestic. Yarcombe, Devonshire.

Lizzie LANE. Serv. S. 15. Housemaid Domestic. Micheldever, Hants.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 20th Feb 1932, front page

Death notice:

JOHNSTONE .. Feb. 18, at the County Hospital Ryde, Canon **G.A. JOHNSTONE**, M.A., vicar of Ryde, aged 63.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 20th Feb 1932,

DEATH OF THE VICAR OF RYDE

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of the Rev. **George Alexander JOHNSTONE**, M.A., vicar of Ryde, who died at the Royal I.W. County Hospital in the early hours of Thursday morning. Some days after attending the annual parish social, when he appeared in his usual health, Canon JOHNSTONE became indisposed, and about a week later the illness developed into one of such a critical character that he was at once removed to the County Hospital for a serious operation. This was performed, but although possessed of sound constitution he remained in a very critical condition. Every care and attention was bestowed on him by the medical staff, matron, and nurses with a zealous concern which he more than once gratefully acknowledged, but in the unequal fight he gradually grew weaker and passed away quietly in his 64th year. Throughout his illness the residents in the town and district have made anxious inquiries concerning his condition, and there was wide and profound regret when his death became known.

Following after the Rev. Canon Hugh LE FLEMING, Canon JOHNSTONE entered the vicariate of the parish of Ryde in 1927, and in the years which have elapsed he has unmistakeably left his mark upon the parish and won the high esteem and regard of the whole town. He had a very genial manner and was courteous and gentlemanly by nature. He was a man of wide sympathies, one who looked out upon the world with a readiness to acknowledge the good that is in the worst and to welcome, from whatever the source it came, any effort that tended towards the fellowship of men. As a preacher he was not given rhetoric or passionate eloquence, yet his pulpit utterances were always forceful in the quiet insistence of their appeal. In a cultured voice which rang with a note of deep conviction his message was delivered in quiet scholarly language that needed nothing more to emphasise its import or its truth.

Upon a public platform the same easy grace of an accomplished speaker was never absent, and no matter what cause he was espousing or the organisation he was supporting, his words were remarkably apt to the occasion. Like his work for the church his efforts in the social sphere were undertaken with a deep sense of responsibility and conscientiousness, and the imprint of a charming personality abides. Those who laboured with him in religious work in the town admired and praised his splendid spirit of toleration, and he himself recognised with grateful appreciation the help he received from all his clerical colleagues.

In 1929 he was president of the Ryde Christian Citizens Union and was also a greatly valued member of the local Ministers Fraternal. As its chairman the branch of the League of Nations Union will miss one of its staunchest supporters, for Canon JOHNSTONE never wearied in adopting the best means for securing support for the cause of world peace. He was also padre to the local group of Toc.H., chaplain at the County Hospital, and mayor's chaplain.

Horticulture was one of his main hobbies. As president and chairman he has done much to improve the condition of the Isle of Wight Rose Society, and as vice-president of the Ryde Horticultural Association he has been a great supporter of local shows and a consistently successful exhibitor of chrysanthemums.

Canon JOHNSTONE, who was a native of Liverpool, was the son of the Rev. George JOHNSTONE, D.D. He was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and in 1890 obtained his B.A. degree (3rd class classical tripos). He proceeded to M.A. in 1907. He was ordained deacon in 1893, and priest in the following year at Ripon. He had held curacies at St. Luke's Manningham, Bradford, from 1893 to 1896, and Holy Trinity, Bingley, from 1896 to 1898, when he was appointed to the vicariate of Micheldever with Stratton, where he remained until his appointment as vicar of St. Augustin's, Bournemouth. He was made an hon. Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral in 1928, and at the end of last year was elected one of the Proctors in Convocation. Among his many personal friends was the Bishop of London, who had often paid visits to the vicarage in the last few years. Deep sympathy is felt with Mrs. JOHNSTONE and Mrs. COLLIE (his daughter) in the heavy bereavement they have been called upon to bear.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

The remains will be taken into All Saints' Church to-morrow (Sunday) evening, and from 8.30 p.m. there will be a continuous watch until the funeral hour at 3 p.m. Monday. Those desirous in taking part in the watch are requested to fill in their names on the chart at the church door. The watches will be of a quarter of an hour's duration or longer if desired. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Monday at 8.15 a.m. The funeral service will be conducted by the Bishop of Portsmouth (Dr. Neville LOVETT, C.B.E.), the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight (the Ven. R. McKEW) and the Rev. A.W.H. HARLOW. Flowers should be sent to the Welby Institute on Monday.

Canon JOHNSTONE is the first vicar of Ryde to die while holding that position.

A friend writes: The passing of Canon JOHNSTONE is causing profound grief, not only to his Ryde parishioners but also to a very wide circle of friends, both in the Island and on the mainland. Few men were more generally loved, and this was not to be wondered at because he was very loveable and attractive personality, large hearted, thinking and speaking kindly of all, and always cheerful. In charge of the large parish of All Saints, he was highly esteemed, his conduct of the services was uplifting, and her sermons, in matter, in eloquence, and in manner of delivery, were of a very high character. The writer has often regretted that his sermons containing special allusions to subjects of the day, and dealt with by him in a faithful and broad-minded manner, were not addressed to a larger congregation than was sometimes gathered in All Saints' Church. Canon JOHNSTONE was also an excellent chairman at public meetings, and he was interested in all good objects, and facile in expressing in a happy and terse way his sympathy with those objects. His ministrations to the sick and poor, as also to the patients at the County Hospital, in which he was specially interested, were very highly valued, and were all marked by his characteristic kindness and goodness of heart.